

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Maria and Fred Wright traveled to Washington to mark the 1-month anniversary of the murder of their son in Orlando. They wrote a beautiful op-ed:

While in D.C., we don't want just thoughts or prayers from Members of Congress. We want them to look us in the eyes and tell us: How will they work to make our Nation safer against gun violence? How will they perform their constitutional duty to "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare"—some of the main roles of government according to our Constitution? How will they work to stand up to the extremist gun lobby and urge their fellow Members to do the same?

Unfortunately, for Maria and Fred Wright, and for all of us, they would have to run really fast to look into the eyes of Congress as our colleagues fled down the stairs to run out for a 7-week vacation and to do nothing. Their son, Jerry, is one of 33,000 Americans who will lose their life to gun violence every year in this country.

We urged our colleagues to bring to the floor something, do something in the face of this carnage. And we stay here as Democrats. The cameras can't stay in the room. The Republican side of the room is empty. They are gone. They are home with their family and friends. Maria and Fred will never get to be with their son Jerry.

They didn't do anything to protect us from gun violence, to protect us from the dangers of Zika, to protect us from lead poisoning. Our most sacred responsibility is the health and well-being of those we serve. Shame on our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Have they no decency to bring these bills to the floor and do their job?

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we have common ground on the Republican and Democratic side of the aisle. There is a problem of gun violence. Innocent people—children in Newtown, workers in San Bernardino, worshippers in Charleston, and five very brave police officers in Dallas protecting the right of citizens to protest—all have been killed.

We have got to do something. We know that. We have a disagreement about what. But should we have a disagreement that we not even debate what is the right response as a policy to protect innocent lives from future gun violence? That is the question.

We can debate the Second Amendment. We can protect gun owner rights. But we can't hide from the responsibility that we chose to accept when we ran for office and asked people to entrust us with their vote in this Congress, that we won't even discuss, we won't debate, we won't have a committee hearing, we won't have a bill on the floor. That is what is really unacceptable.

Do you know what? We have a disagreement. Put some bills on the floor. We vote. Our voters then get to hold us accountable one way or the other.

□ 1545

JUST AN ORDINARY SUNDAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was just another Sunday in December 2006 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Greg Key was in church, with the pastor delivering a sermon—a little sweat on his brow. It was just another Sunday when Greg's cell phone buzzed. He stepped out for a call that changed his life.

The voice on the other end told him that his 19-year-old daughter—the shining light of his life—had been gunned down as the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting.

On this ordinary Sunday, like on every other day of the year, 91 families got devastating news that a loved one had been killed by a firearm. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, it was just an ordinary Sunday.

TAKING ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme concern that you have dismissed this House without taking action on the critical issues that face our Nation, especially gun violence.

I rise on their behalf—for the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence all over the country and in my own community. I rise for these mothers and fathers who wake up every morning, worried about the safety of their children and communities, who will continue to wait with no action due to your decision.

On an average day, as has been stated eloquently, more than 90 Americans are killed by guns. How many more lives will it take until we come to terms with this reality? How many more days must go by until this House takes even one small step in the right direction?

Every day counts. Every life counts. The American people deserve better. The decision to adjourn is shameful. I urge you to get this House back to work to address the gun violence epidemic so we can finally act on the call of "not one more."

CRISES DEMAND ACTION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House work awfully hard at doing nothing. We face many crises—crises that demand action. We have a crisis with regard to the Zika virus. We have a crisis in Flint, Michigan, where people have been poisoned by lead-contaminated water. We have a gun violence crisis in this country where massacres have become the new norm.

What is the Republicans' response? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing.

The only concrete action they have taken is to adjourn the House so they can go on vacation. We shouldn't be going on vacation until we do the people's business.

Shame on the Republican leadership for adjourning this House and not taking up gun safety legislation, not addressing the crisis in Flint, Michigan, and not funding the crisis regarding the Zika virus. The people of this country deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you to bring the House back, and let's do our work.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of 5 police officers and injured 11 more officers and civilians in Dallas. The ambush on the Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11 attacks in our country. Yet House Republicans are leaving Washington today, for a 52-day recess, without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic that is happening all across the Nation.

The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question: How many more innocent Americans will have to lose their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence?

The answer, in my opinion, should be "none." No more Americans should have to lose their lives. There are a number of proposals in Congress that are available today for the House Republicans to bring to the floor for a vote. This legislation is available now.

Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of five police officers and injured eleven more officers and civilians in Dallas last week. This ambush on Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11th attacks.

Yet, House Republicans are leaving Washington today for a fifty-two day recess without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic happening across our nation. The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question of how many more innocent Americans will have to lose